

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing device, comprising:
image data inputting means for inputting image data;
image data storing means for storing the image data inputted by the image data inputting means;
image data processing means for processing the image data stored in the image data storing means; and
image data invalidating means for performing invalidation of the image data stored in the image data storing means,
the image processing device further comprising:
directing means for directing suspension of the invalidation performed by the image data invalidating means; and
permitting means for permitting the suspension of the invalidation directed by the directing means.
2. The image processing device as set forth in claim 1, wherein:
the image data invalidating means continues the invalidation until the suspension of the invalidation is permitted.
3. The image processing device as set forth in

claim 1, wherein:

the permitting means permits the suspension of the invalidation after obtaining approval by an administrator who administrates the image processing device.

4. The image processing device as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

the permitting means permits the suspension of the invalidation by input of a key operator code.

5. An image processing method, comprising the steps of:

(a) storing image data and carrying out required image processing with respect to the image data thus stored; and

(b) performing invalidation of the image data thus processed so as to prevent reproduction of the image data;

(c) when request of suspension of the invalidation is made after the step (b) is started, carrying out identification of a user who made the request of the invalidation; and

(d) suspending the invalidation after confirming that the user who made the request of the invalidation is a certified user.

6. The image processing method as set forth in

claim 5, wherein:

in the step (c), the identification of the user who made the request of the invalidation is carried out by input of a key operator code.